



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

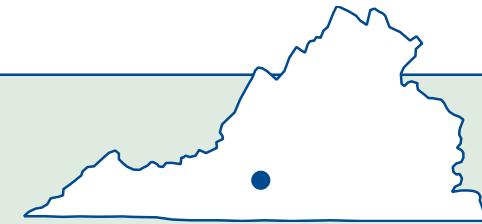
Roanoke, VA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Roanoke was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Since 1980, Roanoke (population 94,911) has steadily been losing residents. During that same period, the Metropolitan Statistical Area's population has increased. As part of the city's comprehensive plan aimed at reversing this trend, Roanoke has identified two strategic, blighted areas for revitalization—the neighborhoods adjacent to the Roanoke River and the South Jefferson Redevelopment Area. Numerous long-dormant brownfields sites, legacies of the decline of the city's light and heavy manufacturing industries, are situated along the Roanoke River flood plain. Approximately 75 percent of the land in the South Jefferson area is blighted and deteriorated, with up to 24 brownfields properties. Approximately one-third of the residents living in the



Assessment Grants



**\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the City of Roanoke for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities, perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments, and develop cleanup plans for sites along the Roanoke River and in the South Jefferson Redevelopment Area. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites in the same target areas with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Roanoke, VA
540-853-1687

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

vicinity of these target areas live below the poverty level, double the city rate. The median household income in the river communities is 22 percent lower than the city median, and nearly 40 percent of the local residents are minorities. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the South Jefferson properties will help the city's efforts to revitalize the area as a vibrant, mixed-use urban district incorporating a biotechnology park, commercial corridor, and residential neighborhood. These efforts are expected to make Roanoke a more desirable place in which to live, work, learn, and play.